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Gloria D. Gray, Chairwoman
Board of Directors, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
PO Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153

RE: Strong Opposition to MWD "Backstopping" IID's Drought Contingency Plan Participation

Chairwoman Gray:

Please advise your board membership that the Board of Directors of the Imperial Irrigation District strongly opposes any attempt by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to take action authorizing its participation in the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan on behalf of California without the participation of the Imperial Irrigation District, California's largest Colorado River contractor.

The IID Board of Directors authorized this action by unanimous vote on Friday, March 1, 2019 and this letter should serve as the district's formal communication of this position and its intent to object to any subsequent actions or positions the MWD board may be considering on this issue.

I understand this matter is now on MWD's agenda for consideration at its regular meeting of March 12, 2019. While IID has heard Mr. Kightlinger's argument that "timing and urgency" necessitate his recommendation of this action, this proposal will create delays and complications, no doubt some of them unintended, which will almost certainly delay the implementation of a DCP within the Colorado River Basin. I have attached a copy of my remarks regarding your recommendation from IID's March 1, 2019 special board meeting. Please share this letter with your board for its consideration prior to the matter being taken up for action.

Yours Very Truly,

Eric Ortega
President, Board of Directors

cc: Commissioner Burman, USBR
Robert Snow, DOI
Peter Nelson, CRB Chairman
John Powell, Jr, CVWD
Charles Van Dyke, PVID
Edward Paget, City of Needles